



King County
Department of Public Defense
206-296-7662

At-Risk Youth & CHINS Petitions – Public Defense Services

Description:

By law, your child has the right to an attorney to represent their concerns in the At-Risk Youth Petition (ARY) and Child in Need of Services (CHINS) process. When you file a petition, an attorney is automatically assigned to represent your child. Parents and legal guardians are required by law to pay for the legal costs of their child's defense unless they are unable to pay and are eligible for public defense services, or have retained an attorney for the child or themselves. Parents may not receive assistance of an appointed attorney at public expense for themselves for ARY cases, but, if eligible, may receive the assistance of an appointed attorney for themselves in CHINS cases.

Who is eligible for public defense services?

Your family's income and assets need to be reviewed to see if you are eligible for public defense services. In general, in order to be considered indigent and automatically eligible for public defense services without cost to you, your family's income must not exceed 125% of the Federal poverty level. However, a complete screening needs to be completed to see if you qualify. Families who receive public assistance such as food stamps or TANF qualify by law but still need to be screened.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>2014 Maximum Monthly Income</u>
2 people	\$1,639
3 people	\$2,062
4 people	\$2,485

How to qualify:

After filing an ARY or a CHINS petition at Juvenile Court, you would next complete a financial screening at the Department of Public Defense (DPD). Please bring the following documents with you to the screening:

- Case Number (or copy of the ARY Petition)
- Proof that you are receiving public assistance – or –
- Paystubs from the last three months
- Last year's tax return
- Any additional information you may have available, such as recent bank statements, mortgage statement, etc.

How much does it cost if I don't qualify?

If you don't qualify for public defense services at no cost, you will be billed \$975.10. If desired, you may set up a payment plan by signing a promissory note with King County DPD.

Costs for dismissed cases:

Parents who do not qualify for public defense services at no cost are responsible for the entire cost unless the case is dismissed within one week of filing the petition.

Locations:

King County Juvenile Court 1211 E. Alder St., 3 rd Floor Seattle, WA 98122 M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	King County Courthouse 516 Third Ave., 8 th Floor Seattle, WA 98104 M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Maleng Regional Justice Center 401 Fourth Ave. N., Room M-1 Kent, WA 98032 M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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Additional information about the Department of Public Defense and financial eligibility may be found at <http://kingcounty.gov/courts/OPD/Services/ProvideAttorney.aspx>

